to Casualty are referred to Safdarjung Hospital after giving them immediate first aid. The cases of post-burn surgery like reconstructive surgery and plastic surgery are referred to Safdarjung Hospital as well established facilities are available in that hospital. All cases of dog-bite reported at AIIMS Casualty are provided first aid and necessary advice.

Provision for extension in service on administrative posts

†766. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for extension in service on administrative posts after retirement from Government service;

(b) if not, whether it is a fact that efforts are being made for giving extension in service to a retired administrative officer from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said officer is also participating in court proceedings as an official representative; and

(d) if so, what decision Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) There is no provision in the rules for grant of extension in services beyond the date of superannuation in Administrative posts in AIIMS Act. However, proposal for re-employment of Chief Administrative Officer was submitted by the Institute to the President, AIIMS which was rejected and the concerned person has been retired from the services of the Institute on the afternoon of 31st October, 2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Anthrax cases reported in the country

767. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Anthrax cases reported in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of deaths, if any;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government are prepared to meet the bio-terrorism situation in the country; and

(d) the stocks of medicines available for treatment of Anthrax in district hospitals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Natural Anthrax is endemic in some parts of the country. The data available with National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) is given below:—

States	1999		2000		2001	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Karnataka	8	5	Nil		4	2
West Bengal	Nil		43	3	Nil	

(c) and (d) Government has initiated the following actions:

(i) A detailed list of biological and chemical agents used as weapons prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research alongwith signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines anti-microbial therapy and treatment has been circulated to all the States and Union Territories and Central Government hospitals in order to take precautionary steps such as earmarking of maximum number of beds for emergency contingency, stocking of vaccines/sera/drugs to the extent possible, setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action and sensitise them on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

(ii) A national workshop was conducted at the NICD in September, 2001 for developing surveillance mechanism for pathogens with biological warfare potential including that of Anthrax.

(iii) An issue of CD alert (monthly Newsletter of NICD) on bio-terrorism with special reference to Anthrax was circulated in October, 2001 to all the concerned health authorities in different States and Union Territories. The issue also covered the guidelines to be followed during biological war/terrorism and effective handling of suspicious envelops/package.

(iv) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country.

(v) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized on 29th October, by the Department of Health which was participated by the Secretaries of Home and Health, Director of Health Services for various States/Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation. Drugs like Penicillin, Ciprofloxacin, suffering from Anthrax infection. A large number of manufacturers in India are marketing these drugs and are available in all corners of the country.

(vi) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency to for investigations of any specimen suspected for Anthrax.

(vii) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops/packages are being received for tests.

Gap in manpower and infrastructure at the primary health care level

768. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is persistent gap in manpower and infrastructure especially at the primary health care level in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bridge this gap; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of certain gaps in primary health care system, which is mainly on account of inadequate outreach of infrastructure and trained manpower. The management and implementation of the national family welfare programme is the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Central Ministry is in regular dialogue with State Governments to take appropriate steps that will address the unmet need and bridge the existing gaps including filling up of vacancies of doctor and other para-medical staff.